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of 1830, Baron Chazal, General Pletinckx, and General Monceau. Chazal, a young man of twenty-two, son of a former *conventionnel* of France, threw himself impetuously into the insurrection of Brussels, was intrusted with important missions by his colleagues of the revolutionary junta, and discharged them with ability and dash. His narrative, graphic, enthusiastic, and characterized by much self-complacency, is significant as showing how important cities like Mons and Antwerp were brought into the general movement (I. 33-272). Pletinckx was the real organizer of the *garde bourgeoise* of Brussels at the outbreak of the revolution and his account throws some light upon events in the capital in August and September, 1830 (I. 293-406). General Monceau was aide-de-camp to the Prince of Orange, son of the King of the Netherlands, and as such was in constant attendance upon him. The extracts from his memoirs are extremely interesting and important. He accompanied the prince to Brussels and Antwerp during the troubles of 1830. His point of view was that of an instinctive defender of the established order. For him insurrectionists were nothing but *canaille*, *gens à l'aspect sinistre*, and members of parliament were nothing but *ces messieurs*. But he possessed very unusual powers of rapid and accurate observation. His account of the prince's visit to Brussels is remarkable. He noted instantaneously and with apparent discrimination every manifestation of popular feeling favorable or unfavorable to the prince and to the government, and recorded all with such directness, such objectivity, and such evident fidelity to the truth, that his narrative constitutes a valuable historical source (I. 412-558).

The second volume contains extracts from the journal of General Constant Rebecque, chief of staff of the army of the Netherlands; a long contemporary account, in Dutch, of events in Antwerp from August 28, 1830, to May 1, 1831; and various other documents.

The editor of these volumes has done his work well. Biographical sketches of the men whose memoirs he publishes, brief biographical notes concerning the lesser personages mentioned in the course of the narrative, and an admirable index of personal names add to the usefulness of this work. It would have been increased still further, had he given us information as to when and under what conditions the various memoirs were composed, facts essential to any final and authoritative appreciation of their historical value, and in regard to which we are left entirely in the dark.

CHARLES DOWNER HAZEN.

*La Révolution de Février: Étude Critique sur les Journées des 21, 22, 23, et 24 Février 1848.* Par ALBERT CRÉMIEUX, Agrégé d'Histoire et Géographie, Docteur ès Lettres. [Bibliothèque d'Histoire Moderne.] (Paris: Édouard Cornély et Cie. 1912. Pp. 535.)

THE French Revolution of 1848 has been greatly and variously

denatured by those who have written concerning it. It has been a congenial theme for partizan polemics since the very day when the invaders of the Tuileries seized the throne of Louis Philippe and, having carried it in tumultuous triumph across the city of Paris, burned it to ashes in the Place de la Bastille where stood the monument that commemorated the Revolution of 1830, a revolution to which the Citizen King owed the throne upon which he had sat for eighteen years and which was now so unceremoniously incinerated. Thus was completed another cycle in the history of France and then began a war of words concerning the causes, course, and consequences of the three days. Republicans, socialists, monarchists of two schools, Bonapartists, clericalists, and militarists have all rushed to the attack and the defense of this much belauded, much maligned revolution. That the resulting literature has been large, if not convincing or satisfying, is evident from the extensive and classified bibliography prefixed to the present volume. But what has hitherto been lacking has been a dispassionate, analytical, and critical history of this event, fraught with such significance both to France and Europe. Such a history M. Crémieux has now given us in this notable volume, which is another brilliant illustration, in addition to the many we have had in recent years, of the vigor, the thoroughness, and the solidity of much of modern French historical writing.

What has hitherto rendered difficult, and, indeed, impossible, an authoritative account of the February Revolution has been the lack of any source, superior to all others, by which the multitude of statements previously made by more or less competent witnesses and commentators could be effectively controlled. Such a source is now accessible. It consists of the voluminous documents gathered immediately after the revolution in the course of the judicial investigation undertaken by the government in connection with the projected prosecution of the Guizot ministry. These documents, long preserved and overlooked in the archives of the Ministry of Justice, were, in 1905, deposited in the Archives Nationales. Upon the method followed by the government in the investigation and upon the value of the resulting documents M. Crémieux has published an article in the *Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine* (IX. 5-23, 1907-1908). Though of the most unequal character, being the reports or answers or depositions of participants, and needing most cautious examination in every case, they form, as the author states, a source "unique in the history of insurrections and revolutions". The method which he has followed in the construction of his book is sufficiently indicated in the following sentence. "In the presence of the abundance of documents I have accepted for each fact only the testimony of those who were ocular witnesses of it; and whenever it has been possible without danger to clearness of exposition . . . I have allowed the witnesses themselves to speak and I have been the more inclined to do this as in most cases the documents have been hitherto unpublished."

It is impossible within the limits of a brief review to show in detail the numerous merits of this volume. The narrative is one of precise statements of fact. The events of those crowded days are described with sufficient fullness. Half of the book is devoted to those of February 24. It would be difficult to find a theme offering more resistance to orderly presentation, for the February Revolution was a wild welter of conflicting forces, of multitudinous incidents. The situation changed from hour to hour and almost from moment to moment, with astounding, disconcerting rapidity. Yet M. Crémieux's narrative is surprisingly clear and admirably balanced. It is characterized by a continuous critical control of the sources and of the numerous previous writers on the subject. And where the author is in doubt, where the evidence is lacking or is dubious, he points out that fact and avoids resorting to conjecture, hypothesis, or easy generalization.

This monograph disproves several conceptions concerning the February Revolution which have passed into the historical literature of the last half-century without serious challenge. One of these is that that revolution was a *surprise*, a veritable accident in which chance and the activity of a few men played the preponderant rôle. In the polemics which began on the very morrow of the event between Monarchists and Republicans both parties accepted this description as correct. We find it in the work of Garnier-Pagès, the most elaborate and hitherto the most important republican history of this revolution, and in the royalist writings of Guizot and Thureau-Dangin. It is impossible here to summarize M. Crémieux's proof to the contrary, but it is ample and convincing. The destruction of this legend is a most important service to historical scholarship.

CHARLES DOWNER HAZEN.

*The Life and Times of Cavour.* In two volumes. By WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. xvi, 604; viii, 562.)

THIS solid biography of the foremost among the makers of modern Italy has been published at an auspicious moment. African expansion, which is the logical outcome of Italian unity and prosperity, has recently been undertaken by Cavour's successors with a thoroughness of organization and a command of national energy which recall the best traditions of Cavourian government, proving the quality and stability of the national structure and justifying the designs of the master-builder. It has been usual among historians of the Italian national struggle to give exaggerated prominence to the purely revolutionary aspects of the conflict. Dramatic Italian victories on the battle-field lay mostly with the volunteer revolutionary corps glorified by the leadership of Garibaldi, and it is natural that both the latter and the thrilling story of a half-century of heroic conspiracy should have appealed more to most historians than the long, prosaic course of legislative reform, sound financ-